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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/053,431	~01/17/2002	Chris Yoochang Chung	UNIV0123	3518
7590	05/05/2004		EXAMINER	NGUYEN, HAU H
Ronald M. Anderson LAW OFFICES OF RONALD M. ANDERSON Suite 507 600 - 108th Avenue N.E. Bellevue, WA 98004			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2676	5
			DATE MAILED: 05/05/2004	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/053,431	CHUNG ET AL.
<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Hau H Nguyen	2676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### **Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 01 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 February 2004.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                            2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## **Disposition of Claims**

4)  Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) 2 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8)  Claim(s) 1 and 3-30 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_ .

5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)  Other: \_\_\_\_ .

*Response to Amendment*

1. Because of the numerous amendments to the independent claims, the examiner has distinguished separate inventions. For the examiner to do a thorough search and examination, a restriction is being done to separate these four inventions. For the examiner to do all four inventions together would be time consuming, and would result in a poor search because of the limited amount of time to search multiple subclasses.

*Election/Restriction*

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1, 3-16 drawn to “programmable graphics pipeline” classified in class 345, subclass 506.
- II. Claims 17-22 drawn to “processing graphics data and media data” classified in class 345, subclass 546.
- III. Claims 23-29 drawn to “processing variable length data” classified in class 345, subclass 522.
- IV. Claim 30 drawn to “caching texture data and media data” classified in class 345, subclass 552.

3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other, because of the following reasons:  
Inventions I, II, III, and IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be

separately usable. In the instant case, invention I has separate utility such as "programmable graphics pipeline". Invention II has separate utility such as "processing graphics data and media data". Invention III has separate utility such as "processing variable length data". Invention IV has separate utility such as "caching texture data and media data". See MPEP § 806.05(d).

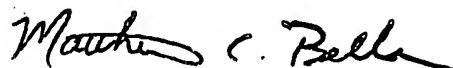
4. Because these invention are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, or Group III, or Group IV, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hau H Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305 4104. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:30pm Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella can be reached on (703) 308-6829. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

H. Nguyen

04/27/2004



MATTHEW C. BELLA  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600